

THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

Published Free of Charge Monthly by The San Antonio Radio Club.

VOL. 3, NO. 3

MARCH, 1960

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

VHF AND UP

Conditions near 50 mc. were very slow going during February. There were few Es openings and, in addition, the old F2 layer is relaxing for the next half decade or so.

45 mc. BBC video from London was last heard on 31 Jan. and 41.5 mc. audio was last heard on 13 Feb. These signals may not be heard again until 1965 and perhaps not even then because past data shows that very high sunspot activity is followed by reduced activity for many sunspot cycles. Maybe this type DX is gone for our lifetimes.

The ARRL-IGY Propagation Research Project is to terminate during April 1960 after gathering 50 mc. data (among other bands) for almost 3 and one-half years, starting in Jan. 57. The San Antonio gang contributed greatly to the project, especially on trans-equatorial evening contacts with So. America. Also, the 50 mc. contact that K5HVC had with KL7AUV in Anchorage is unique in its own right since it appears to be the first known Es contact with Alaska from the U. S. This took place at 2030 CST on 16 August 59.

SPUTNIK III is due to fall on 11 Mar. '60 as predicted by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. At the present time signals are erratic but they can still be received on 20.005 mc. The bagpipe tones of EXPLORER VII still come roaring in on 19.990 mc. from the six-tenths watt transmitter which will shut itself off in Oct. 60.

The writer visited National Bureau of Standards station WWV at Beltsville, Md., outside Washington, D. C., during February. It was very illuminating to see this station which is so

well known to all hams throughout the world.

Among the most interesting points: the 100 kc. quartz crystals which determine frequency (and thereby time) are buried in a concrete vault 25 ft. below ground for stability; the transmitter on 25 mc. is a converted BC-610 running 100 watts out; the 440 and 600 cycle tones are generated by single upper sideband transmitters which beat against the full carriers generated by completely separate TX's, including antennas; all antennas are half-wave wire verticals which are hung alongside telephone poles (2.5 mc. is a quarter-wave vertical).

Whenever WWV drifts off frequency (fractions of a part in one billion), it is brought back in line by varying the crystal holder capacitance. If left uncorrected for 300 years, WWV would change by just one second of time. Zero beat your MASERS! Good luck.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

DX

Conditions for the first fone weekend of the DX contest were only fair, but conditions were excellent on all bands for the first half of the CW contest. All continents were heard on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters at the QTH of W5LGG. I hope you got in on the fun.

New Countries?? Several African Colonies have become or will shortly become independent Nations. Included in this category are Togo (FD8), Ivory Coast (FF4), French west Africa—now Republique Mali and Republic Mauritanie (FF8-FF7), Malagache (formally Madagascar FB8), French Congo (FQ8), and Belgian Congo (OQ5). If the DXCC rules

committee follows the precedent set in the instances of Ghana (Gold Coast), and Guinea (French Guinea), all of these new countries will count separately for DXCC even if you already have credit for working them as colonies. Better work them if you can.

And speaking of rare ones, just what is the best way to get a card from that fellow who has ignored all the QSL's you've sent him? Enclose an International Reply Coupon? This might help, but the lazy cad would still have to take it to his Post Office, and some P. O.'s don't honor them. You need to make it as easy as possible for Mr. Mighty Rareone, and the way to do it is to enclose a self-addressed envelope stamped with postage of HIS country! Impossible? Not at all, W2SAW runs a foreign stamp service just for DX'ers, and the cost is less than for IRC's. Another success-

ful method is the use of reply-paid post cards. You put US stamps on both halves of this double card. One QST-CQ advertiser prints these in QSL form which enables the sender to fill in the QSO information in advance and requires Mr. Rareone only to sign it and drop it in the mail. These International reply-paid cards are valid everywhere, inside or outside the US, and have been particularly effective in the lands of "Manana" to the south of us.

Coming D X - p e d i t i o n s : Soon-W4BPD to many rare and possibly new spots in the Eastern Africa—Indian Ocean—Middle East regions. (check with W5UX for the latest information on Gus' itinerary). Cocos Island by TI9SB in April, Swan Island, KS-4AZ by W4KFC and others, (now on 0; and Br. Honduras, VP1JH by W0NWX (now on).

Don't forget to send in your contest

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logs and endorse them for the San Antonio Radio Club.

73 and good DX
Len W5LGG

HAM CLASS

A class in Amateur Radio will start on March 5, 1960 3 til 6 p.m. and will continue each Saturday until completed. This class is thru the courtesy of Modern Electronics Co. and will be conducted by Red K56UH at 2000 Broadway.

For information call Jim K5TYI or Paul (Capt., Space Ranger) K5OH6 at CA 7-7388.

MOBILE

E. C. W5FQA had the transmitter last month, at the stadium at Trinity U. and Gene W5EJT came in first, with Cole W5DKF second, and Theo W5OZQ third. Boy that was a real sneaky one. It was over before the boys had a chance to get started. Everyone really expected it to be hidden on the South Side.

The mobiles are going to go to Medina Lake on March 6th, to furnish communications for the Boat Club here in town, and that should really be interesting.

The Mobiles are going to furnish communications for the Sports Car Club when they hold their big races in San Marcus on April 9th and 10th.

Ethyl K5OPS, is now monitoring 3855 all the time, so if anyone has any trouble or anything, give K5OPS a call and wait a few minutes for her to get the fillaments warmed up and she will be glad to help you out if

at all possible.

Gene W5EJT, will hide the transmitter on Sunday March 13th instead of on March 6th so lets all go out and find that one. The hunts don't last as long as they used to, and that makes it a little more interesting also.

TRANSISTOR LECTURE SERIES

The San Antonio Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Texas Instruments Company of Dallas, and St. Mary's University will jointly sponsor a series of seven illustrated lectures to be presented at St. Mary's University Science Building 109, 8:00-10:00 p.m., on Monday evenings, March 7th through April 18th. This Lecture Series will concern itself with transistor theory, technology, and circuit applications.

The series if offered by the sponsors as a public service venture to assist teachers, engineers, amateurs, and technicians of the area to understand and apply transistors. No attendance or registration charge will be made.

Each lecturer of the series will be a highly qualified scientist or engineer of Texas Instruments Company, Dallas, one of the nation's largest research and manufacturing groups in the semiconductor business.

The Transistor Series begins Monday evening, March 7th, with "The Physics of Semiconductors" by Dr. Morton E. Jones, Head of the Semiconductor Technology Section, Texas Instruments Company.

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CLUB MEETINGS

The program for March 4th will be Radio Teletype, by Ray Wangler, W5EDZ. The program for the meeting March 18, will be a talk by Cal Graff on Periodic Antennas. Cal gave this talk to the IRE group here in San Antonio, and everyone enjoyed it.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome some of the fellows that have made applications to join The San Antonio Radio Club, and some that have recently joined.

A partial list is Jim Ellison K5TYI, M. D. Harris K5PKX, Al Culver K5GUA, L. E. Gibbins W5PCN, J. E. Townsend K5TMJ, H. G. "Guy" Oliver K5VFB, and J. O. Burch Jr. W5WDF.

The club meetings are held on the First and Third Friday nights of each month at The Gunter Hotel, and everyone is cordially invited to attend. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings, but we would like to have you.

ALAMO YL NEWS

For those stations who are certificate collectors, the ALAMO YLS are offering a certificate for any station contacting four or more members of the ALAMO YLS since November 1, 1959. Send copy of log with 10c to Inez Cole

W5WXT 320 Meadowbrook, San Antonio, Texas. Members are as follows: W5KQG, K5OPS, K5OPT, K5OPV, K5PDI, W5TSE, W5WXT, K5YCE, & W5DIV Refugio, Texas.

The certificates are still in the making, but for those waiting early numbers, they will be dated and processed as they are received by the certificate custodian.

GUTTER DOPE

W5IRA is off the air waiting for some transistors for his rig.

K5JAJ Jack, and his XYL KN5-UTO have been starting for a picnic for the last five Sundays, and every time they take off, and get a few blocks from the QTH, the Mobile rig quits. So back home they go, and wind up the day working on the mobile rig.

W5WJR is a new YL in San Antonio and the ALAMO YLS are looking forward to making her acquaintance. So how about meeting them on the 7235 kc Net some Friday at 0900?

Some of the members of the YL Club have their new jackets, and they sure do look snazzy.

Someone has started the rumor that Tommy W5UNG has sunk to the level of the rest of us poor mortals and is seeking gainful employment.



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Johnny W5LVE, has completed the conversion on some of the 53 mc sets that Bob W5OIK has given the fellows, and he is ready to hit the air mobile and with a fixed station.

Buck W5FGA also has one of the units just about ready to smoke test. It looks like these units are really going to work out nice. Theo W5OZQ working from his base station at his QTH, worked George W5VPQ mobile in Berne, and also in Floresville. This gives us a good 30 miles coverage in any direction, for constant communications.

Civil Defense had a simulated Emergency on Sunday Feb. 21, and there were about 20 mobiles participating in the drill.

They say that George W5IFG has taken up skin diving, and has given up Ham Radio again. I wonder whose skin he is going to use?

Guy K5VFB, has finished his Heath Kit Mobile transmitter, and is about ready to install it in his auto. (I wonder if Mama knows that it is going in the auto yet?)

Congratulations to Charlie K5HQR and his XYL on their new Girl. That sure was a nice Xmas gift.

Bob W5JHH is back on the air gain with a new trap vertical antenna.

Gene W5EJT is starting a series of code classes sponsored by The San Antonio Radio Club. The classes will be held on Thursday nights. So if you want to learn the code, or just improve your speed, this is your chance. Con-

tact Gene Jank at DI 2-2225. His address is 100 N. Winston Lane, Castle Hills.

The new DX Editor is Len Parsons W5LGG. To attest to his DX ability, Len has 240 countries confirmed out of 249 worked (.963 batting average), worked 400 different call area prefixes (only 300 are needed for the CQ WPX award) and confirmed all 40 zones. Len has about 30 awards given out by different countries, including a 35 wpm code certificate. GO-MAN-GO.

K5YOQ

Kay Strand is a new amateur to San Antonio but certainly not new to Amateur radio. He has been licensed since 1934 having held the calls of W7LOQ & W9LVX previous to coming to 5 Land. Kay and his XYL Vi live at 211 Conway Dr. and call San Antonio home since moving here this past Summer. They made a trip from Washington State to visit their daughter, Mrs. Pat Symons two years ago and like the climate. Kay works for the Police Dept. He uses an ART 13 rig and works 10 & 20 meter fone & 40 CW. Says he has never gone in for awards or certificates but just enjoys contacting his old friends "back home" and making new ones via radio.

W5FND

Willard Carmack is President of the San Antonio Radio Club. Willard has been licensed since 1935 and lives with his XYL Mary K5PDI and their three children at 302 Lemur. Willard

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Jim K5TYI

and Mary are both native San Antonians. He works with the "B56LSM" at Kelly A.F.B. and his main hobby is tinkering with ham equipment. His rig consists of an Apache TXL with SB 10 Adapter and a HRO receiver. Says he will be mobile soon.

Watch for the opening of a new surplus store on the North side next month.

Tommy Randol W5UNG

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